

Announcement of Ambassador to Canada

May 27, 1993

The President announced his intention today to nominate former Michigan Governor Jim Blanchard to be the U.S. Ambassador to Canada.

"Our relationship with Canada is absolutely vital," said the President. "They are our largest trading partner and one of our closest neighbors. That's why I am nominating an Ambassador in whom I place such a high degree of trust, my good friend Jim Blanchard. With a voice that will be clearly heard in both Ottawa and Washington, he will ensure that this important relationship continues to be productive for both countries."

NOTE: A biography of the nominee was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary.

Teleconference Remarks With Veterans in VA Medical Centers

May 28, 1993

The President. Vincent Maurio, are you there?

Vincent Maurio. Yes. My name is Vincent Maurio from Philadelphia Nursing Home Care Unit.

The President. And is Eugene Young there?

Eugene Young. Yes, I'm here at Bronx VA Nursing Home Unit.

The President. It's good to hear all your voices. I'm here with Vice President Gore and with Hershel Gober who is the Deputy Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs. And as we move into Memorial Day weekend, we just wanted you to know and all veterans like you in hospitals all across America that we're thinking about you, pulling for you. We know you wish you could be home and able to participate in the Memorial Day services. But we're very, very excited about the fact that you have these phones in your rooms now thanks to the PT Phone Home Project.

And I want to say a special word of thanks to Frank Dosio who came up with this idea and to all the people who worked on it: Bell

Atlantic, C&P Telephone, NYNEX, and especially the workers, the Communication Workers of America and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. There have been a lot of people who worked on this project, and we wanted to highlight that by talking to you three this morning.

And we thought it was an especially good time to do it as we head into Memorial Day. And I have a few notes about you guys. I know more about you than you know about me now. [Laughter] I wanted to say a special word of thanks to all of you. And Mr. Young, I understand you have a couple of sons in the service.

Mr. Young. Yes, I do, sir.

The President. And you ought to be able to talk to them more frequently now. Where are they?

Mr. Young. One, Korea; the other one in Italy in the Army, sir.

The President. Good for you. And you have a third child in college?

Mr. Young. Yes, Queens College.

The President. So, you have one child handy.

Mr. Young. Yes.

The President. Pretty close.

Mr. Young. Yes.

The President. And Mr. Maurio and Mr. Patenaude, both of you are veterans of World War II, is that right?

Mr. Maurio. That's right.

Ken Patenaude. Yes, I am.

The President. Is it nice for you having those phones?

Mr. Young. Very nice.

Mr. Maurio. I think it's an enormous accomplishment, and I think it's going to be great for all of us. It's going to get us easy access to reach our families and friends at home, a greater sense of privacy, and I think it's going to instill in us yet a higher level of self-reliance, which of course in our conditions is very important.

So, I'm fascinated by the incredible technology and the genius that it takes to put this program together and this phone system together. And I've been witness to it all